

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Letter to The Editor

From MRS. J. B. O'S.,
Myrtle Point, Oregon

● May I add my voice to the chorus to tell you how "simply super" the July issue of the Begonian is? I always find something of interest in each number but the last one seemed crammed from cover to cover. I particularly enjoyed the Rex article and pictures of the Redlands greenhouse. I like to consider myself a Rex collector, albeit a very amateurish one, my plants numbering a mere 150 to date. Thought the article by Philip Post and the one by "An Eastern Member" grand. Nice going also in "Answer to Information Wanted." I live in a climate neither as cold as the East nor

as mild as California. Some seem to feel that to live in California is automatically to be surrounded by begonias with little or no effort. It is my firm belief that if one cares enough for any kind of plant and is willing to learn, one can fairly successfully grow such plants wherever one may be, in California or Alaska. Personally, I have profited many times by experiences related by California growers. Hope to see more Pronunciation Suggestions, since I find some names very hard to master.

The Editor is grateful indeed for let-

Notes on the Effect of Temperature and Humidity on Growth of Tuberous Begonias

By ALFRED HELLER,
New York City, N. Y.

IT may seem strange to members of the American Begonia Society living in California to hear that millions of people in and around New York City do not know what a tuberous Begonia is, and probably never have seen one in bloom. In the past five years I have seen only one puny plant on display in a florist's shop, and I never have seen one in the Begonia House of the New York Botanical Gardens, although this house is devoted exclusively to begonias. They are considered a rare plant in the Metropolitan Area—that is, difficult of culture. When I tell professional men that I have chosen the growing of this flower as a hobby, they often ask, "Why don't you choose something easy?"

One can afford, however, to select a difficult subject as a hobby, and, although I have never grown tuberous begonias that can be compared in any way with those grown on the Pacific Coast, I have had lots of fun trying to do so. The fact that most of my attempts have been failures has forced me to make a rather close study for the causes of these failures, and the information thus gained may be of interest to others; so I am passing along notes on this extremely important subject with the hope that they might help other members of the American Begonia Society.

Another result of my failures is the firm conviction that tuberous begonias never can be grown as well around New York City as along the Pacific Coast without going to some trouble and expense. However, I am now experimenting with air conditioning, and hope in this way to approximate the California climate. A careful record of this experiment is being kept, and this information will be passed along to "The Begonian" in due time.

ters from Begoniastes as different points of view make the search for knowledge more interesting to all. Another field of action is brought to the attention of our readers this month. We do want comments and reports from whoever may be interested in the same line of endeavor as Mr. Alfred Heller.

In analyzing the effect of temperature on the growth of tuberous begonias, probably the easiest way would be to take five widely separated localities. Two such sites are Capitola, Calif., and Swans Island, Maine. At Capitola are located the hybridizing gardens of Vetterle and Reinelt, who have been successful commercially in the growing of tuberous begonias. The climate of the Pacific Coast in general, and Capitola in particular, is one of the best for the culture of these flowers.

Swans Island, Maine, lies in the Atlantic Ocean five miles from the nearest point of land, and about twenty miles south of Bar Harbor, Maine. It is completely surrounded by the Atlantic, and is the location of the gardens of Howard R. Rich, a commercial grower of fine begonias. His gardens over the summer months are the mecca of a considerable number of flower lovers. The climate of Swans Island and the adjacent islands off the Maine coast (next to that of the Pacific Coast), is about the best in the United States for the growing of tuberous begonias.

The above localities are two in which the climate is exceptionally well adapted to the growing of begonias. They are both practically on the seashore.

The next site to be discussed is Lake Placid, New York, which is located in the Adirondack Mountains. Having an elevation of a little over 2,000 feet, and being far from the sea or any large body of water, it naturally has an entirely different climate from the two localities at the seashore. The summer colonists of Lake Placid grow some nice tuberous begonias which, though not as large as those of Swans Island or the Pacific Coast, nevertheless are fine, sturdy, healthy-looking plants, and superior to any one sees around New York City.

The next location to be considered is Fresno, Calif., where, I have been told, at least one person has grown tuberous begonias. On the face of it, this would seem next to impossible with an average mid-day temperature of 98°, and a humidity at times as low as 15%. An an-

(Continued on next page)

alysis of the climate will, however, afford a possible explanation.

The final location is New York City, where tuberous begonias are grown, but rather indifferently, and with little success.

As one can see, these widely separated localities with greatly varying humidities and temperatures, include practically all conditions under which begonias can be grown. An analysis of the effects of these varying conditions on the growth of these plants should clear up some puzzling points in the culture of these fine flowers.

Figures and tables are a bore to many flowers lovers, but a clear understanding of temperature and humidity is an absolute necessity if one wants to grow plants intelligently. Both of these items, especially temperature, have a tremendous influence on most of the more highly specialized flowers, and the tuberous begonia is one of these.

In order to appreciate and understand the effect of the varying climate of the five localities under discussion on the growth of these plants, it might be well to consider certain facts affecting their growth and that of all plants. The following principles and facts are recognized by all horticulturists.

1. Night temperature. Plants absorb energy while the sun is shining on them during the day, and convert this energy to plant tissue during the night. Growth is fastest at about midnight. Most plants have a particular night temperature which is best suited for their growth. If this temperature is too low, there is little or no growth; if exceeded, growth is too fast, and the tissue formed is soft. As the night temperature is increased, a point is soon reached where all of the energy absorbed during the day is converted to soft, weak plant tissue. Thus the plant is left at dawn with no reserve energy to resist the heat of the day.

2. If night temperatures are within the right range, plants will tolerate quite some heat while the sun shines on them, for indirectly the sun is giving them all the energy they receive.

3. Too much light for plants is like too much food for humans. Some plants will not tolerate it. Begonias are one of these.

4. High humidities in general are conducive to a heavy, luscious, but somewhat weak growth which often does not resist high day temperatures.

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MARIA WILKES

158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.

• See Your Favorites at the Convention Show, PLUMMER PARK, Hollywood, September 16th, 1944.

AIDS TO PRONUNCIATION

With reference to the "ana" group:

DIGSWELLIANA: Digswell-e-ay' na, or ah' na.

verschaffeltiana: ver-shaf-felt-te ay' na.

scharffiana: sharf-fee-ay'-na, or ah' na.

SCHMIDTIANA: shh-mitt-tee ay' na.

cathayana: cathay-ay' na, or ah' na.

Others will follow. Does this help? Send your difficult ones to the Editor.

5. Low humidities are conducive to smaller growth than that induced by high humidities, but a growth which is hard and tough.

6. The hardest and toughest growth is produced by low humidities and low night temperatures. Such a growth will tolerate lots of sunshine and heat during the day.

7. The largest flowers and heaviest growth are produced by an ideal combination of right night temperature, right day temperature, proper percentage of sunshine, and, in most cases, the humidity best suited for the plant.

8. Whereas most plants will tolerate only small variations in temperature, they often will tolerate great variations in humidity and still grow well. Many plants, however, like a particular degree of humidity, and only when both the humidity and the temperature are right can one expect the heaviest growth and the largest flowers.

(To Be Continued)

Sixth National Begonia Show of the American Begonia Society

BEGONIA SHOW SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Division A — Fibrous Rooted Begonias Class

1. Bedding or Semperflorens; such as Gustav Lind (Westport Beauty), Carmen, Christmas Pink.
2. Tall Growing or Tree forms; such as Lucerna (Corallina Delucerna), Coccinea Red (Rubra Red), Floribunda (Multiflora) Rosea.
3. Intermediate Growth; such as Preussen, Lady Waterlow (Digswelliana), Medora.
4. Low Growing Branching Type; such as Arthur Mallet, nitida, foliosa.
5. Climbing or Scandent when grown upright; such as Marjorie Daw, glabra, glaucophylla. (See Division "E" for Hanging Baskets.)
6. Semi-Tuberous Types; such as Dregei, Macbethi, Parvifolia.
7. New Seedlings. (See Rule No. 3.)

Division B — Rhizomatous — Thick Stem or Procumbent Begonias

Class

8. "Star" types; such as Sunderbruchi, nigricans, Riciniifolia.
9. Nelix or Spiral and Crested; such as Bunchi, Reasti Helix, manicata crispa.
10. Other Rhizomatous types; such as manicata, Feasti, manicata aureomaculata.
11. New Seedlings. (See Rule No. 3.)

Division C — Rhizomatous — Rex Begonias Class

12. Large or Medium Leaves; such as magnifica, Rajah, Black Knight.
13. Small Leaves; such as imperialis, imperialis smaragdina, Illustrata.
14. Helix or Spiralled; such as Countess Louise Erdody, Bronze King, Curly Closson.
15. Discolor or Branching; such as Van-Ex, Mrs. Moon, Abel Carriere.
16. New Seedlings. (See Rule No. 3.)

Division D — Tuberous Rooted Begonias Class

17. Species such as pearcei, evansiana, Martiana.
18. Tuberous (tuberhybrida), Giant Single.
19. Tuberous (tuberhybrida), Single Frilled.

20. Tuberous (tuberhybrida) Single Narcissiflora.
21. Tuberous (tuberhybrida), Single Crested (Cristata).
22. Tuberous (tuberhybrida), Double Camellia.
23. Tuberous (tuberhybrida), Fimbriata Plena (Double frilled or Carnation type).
24. Tuberous (tuberhybrida), Double Rosebud.
25. New Seedlings. (See Rule No. 3.)

Division E — Hanging Basket Begonias Class

26. Tuberous types.
27. All other types.
28. New Seedlings. (See Rule No. 3.)

Division F — Odd or Rare Begonias

Class

2929. All; such as gogensis, Calla Lily, dichroa.

Division G — Cut Flowers and Flower Arrangements

Class

30. Cut Tuberous Begonia Blooms. No Greenery Permitted.
31. Flower Arrangements, using Begonia blooms and Begonia foliage only, accessories permitted. (See Rule No. 4.)

SCHEDULE OF PREMIUMS

Ribbons will be given for first, second, third and special in each class; for the best Begonia in each division and in the show.

War Savings Stamps will be awarded as follows:

\$5.00 for the best Begonia in the show, to be selected from the best Begonia in each division.

\$5.00 for the best Begonia in each division.

\$3.00 for the second best Begonia in each division.

\$2.00 for the third best Begonia in each division.

Ten dollars (\$10.00) in cash will be given for the best new seedling (other than tuberous) in the show, provided the plant is donated to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial.

Five dollars (\$5.00) in cash will be

(Continued on next page)

given for the second best new seedling (other than tuberous) in the show, provided the plant is donated to the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial.

American Begonia Society Certificates will be awarded for meritorious plants.

The Gonda Hartwell Challenge Cup will be awarded for the best Rex Begonia in the show. This is a perpetual cup and will be retained by the winner until two weeks before the next show, at which time it will be returned to the President of the American Begonia Society.

A Sweepstakes Cup will be awarded to the individual winning the most points in the show, based on the following:

- 3 points for each first place
- 2 points for each second place
- 1 point for each third place.

A Sweepstakes Cup will be awarded to the Branch whose members win the most points in the show, based on the above point system. (Hollywood Branch as host club will not be eligible.)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. There will be no entry fee.
2. All Begonias must have been grown by the exhibitor, for at least three months prior to the show.

3. Entries in new seedling classes — The cross must have been made by the exhibitor, the names of both parents must be given, and the plant must not have been placed on the market.

4. Begonias used in Flower Arrangements (Class 3) need not be grown by the exhibitors.

5. Members of the American Begonia Society, other than those who propagate, grow or sell plants for profit, may make as many entries as desired.

6. All entries must be made according to schedule, by class.

7. All entries must be in place ready for judging by 11:00 a.m. on September 16th, 1944. Entries received after 11:00 a.m. will not be judged, but may be exhibited with the entry card marked "Not in Competition."

8. All exhibitors will report to the show headquarters and make out an entry card for each exhibit, which will be placed in a sealed envelope at the time of placing the exhibit, allowing same to remain sealed until after the judging. No other card or label will be permitted.

9. Botanical name, common name and variety of each Begonia should be given if possible. Errors in naming will not disqualify, but the judges will recognize correctness of naming as telling in favor

of an exhibit in a close competition.

10. Premiums will not be awarded unless the exhibit is considered sufficiently meritorious by the judges.

11. The decision of the judges shall be final.

12. No exhibit shall be removed until the close of the banquet.

13. All entries must be removed after the banquet on September 16th, 1944.

14. All exhibits are, from the commencement to the close of the show, in charge of the exhibition committee.

15. While the committee will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits, it can not assume responsibility for injury or loss.

16. Each person who becomes an exhibitor thereby agrees to conform to such rules and regulations as the exhibition committee may make or authorize.

Fibrous Begonia Specimens

Cultural perfection	50
Foliage	15
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Quantity and quality of flowers	15
Correct and suitable labeling	5
	100

Specimen Rex Begonia

Cultural perfection	50
Form	15
Distinctiveness	15
Size of Plant	10
Rarity	10
	100

Displays of Cut Begonia Flowers

Staging and arrangement	25
Color effect	20
Cultural perfection	30
Quality and suitability of accessories.....	20
Correct and suitable labeling	5

Mrs. Kem Weber, Chairman of The Sixth National Begonia Show, 6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles 28, California, will be pleased to furnish any further information that you may desire.

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Branch News

San Diego Branch: Breaking bread together, the receipt for a perfect meeting. At least that was the verdict at the annual dinner of the San Diego Branch. Mrs. J. A. Hegel, assisted by Mes. Russel T. Bailey, Geo. S. Breidford, L. W. Cammack, C. E. Collins, A. P. Martin, Estherline Newcombe, A. B. Roat, Robt. Schiefer, together with J. A. Hegel and A. P. Martin, cooked and served a delicious dinner at the Hard of Hearing Club for the June meeting. Mrs. Martin is a professional flower arranger, so the tables were beautiful with low mounds of small begonia blossoms with greenery and scattered tuberous begonia blossoms. The hostesses wore stunning corsages of the small blossoms. About one hundred people were served. Open discussions, reports of the nominating committee and the plant raffles completed the evening. Mrs. Clarence E. Moore was asked to take over the arrangements for vititng gardens and Paul Bloomer distributed his favorite inorganic fertilizer at cost. Mr. Palmer of Palmcroft gardens told us that pill bugs, those small ones that roll up into a ball when touched, are destructive to plants, but that the sow bugs are scavengers and clean up decayed growth. So touch them and find out what kind you have.

California Heights Branch: The scheduled speaker for our June meeting did not arrive at all due to a failure in transportation, and there would have been a vacant spot in the meeting except for the resourcefulness and ability of the Program Chairman Jerry W. Starr, who stepped into the breach and gave an excellent talk on "Gerberas and their culture," which he illustrated with plants he had brought up from his ranch at (Encinitas) Leucadia, Calif. The topic proved to be quite interesting and he distributed a number of plants to the members, many of who were eager to get them.

Mrs. Esther Randall reported that the plans for the joint visitation had been practically completed. After the "progressive" tour has been completed, dinner will be served and the "door prizes" from each place visited will be awarded. So a busy and pleasant afternoon is expected.

The August meeting will be the annual dinner meeting, and will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Smith, 250 East Home Street, Long Beach 5,

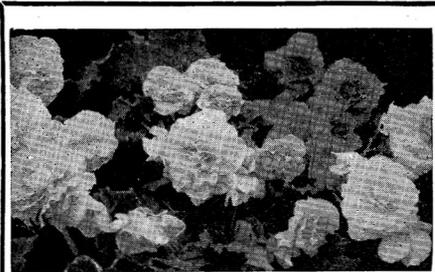
SPECIAL!

Buy Banquet Tickets Before September 1st

The Hollywood Convention Committee is required to guarantee in cash, by September 1st, the exact number of dinners to be served at the annual banquet. Tickets have been distributed to most Branch Societies and we urge you to get in touch with your local President and **BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!** We are also limited to the number we can serve, so please get busy and prevent our headache!

The price is \$1.55 each and you will surely want to attend if you are coming to the convention September 16th, at Plummer Park, Hollywood. Should your local Branch not have tickets, you may get yours before September 1st by sending your check or M. O. direct to Joseph R. Scherer, 3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

Please be prompt, we must know the exact number and have the cash in hand.



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OF
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California, at 6:30 p.m., on Friday, August 11th, 1944.

(See page 380)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. The first paragraph of the portion which sets forth the classes of memberships of this Corporation, to wit, the portion designated as ARTICLE III be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE III

Memberships

Memberships in this Society shall consist of three classes: Life Memberships, Memberships-at-Large, and Memberships through affiliation with any recognized Branch Society.

* * *

2. The third paragraph of ARTICLE IV shall be amended by adding thereto the following sentence:

"These elective officers shall be installed at the annual meeting."

* * *

3. The portion designated as ARTICLE VI shall read as follows:

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

There shall be an annual meeting of the Society, to be held in September of each year at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors.

* * *

The portion designated as ARTICLE VIII shall be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII

DUES

Dues for Life Membership shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

The annual dues of this Society shall be One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50), payable in advance. Members in arrears thirty days may be dropped from the membership and their copy of the official publication discontinued. Membership covers the immediate family, except that only one member may receive the official publication and exercise the right to vote unless additional dues are paid. Annual Memberships shall run one year from the date paid.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS NECESSITATED BY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The changes required in the By-laws in order to comply with the requirements of the proposed amendments to the Constitution consists of changes in the

months designated in that portion of the By-laws which sets forth the dates of the appointment and report of the Nominating Committee, the date of the publication of the official ballot, and the date of the fiscal year.

The portion designated as ARTICLE IV shall be amended as follows:

ARTICLE IV

ELECTIONS

Strike out the word "July" in the first sentence, the word "September" in both the second and third sentences, the word "October" in the fourth sentence, all in the first paragraph. Strike out the word "November" in the fourth paragraph.

Insert the word "May" in place of "July" in the first sentence, the word "July" in place of "September" in both the second and third sentences, and the word "August" in place of "October" in the fourth paragraph, all in paragraph one. Insert the word "September" in place of "November" in the fourth paragraph.

* * *

These proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws were approved and ordered published by the Board of Directors at the monthly meeting, July 10, 1944, in conformity with the Constitution and By-laws of the American Begonia Society.

Please refer to Constitution and By-Laws in The Begonian, October, 1942, page 149.

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"Must-Be-Dones" Of August In A Mid-West Garden

By MARY DUNCOMB,
Luverne, Minn.

• August is the old age of Summer and the youth of Autumn. Here in the Mid-West there comes a morning when we wake to sense a different feel in the air. It may be just a hint at first, nothing definite, but we really know at that moment Summer is taking a first look around, preparatory to departure and Autumn is peeping around the corner. That is the morning we take a look at our house-plant summering out-of-doors and begin our plans for housing them safely for the Winter. It will be well, at this time, to assemble containers for that purpose. The porous pots should be thoroughly cleansed and any new ones well soaked, for if the latter is not done, the water-hungry sides will constantly rob the moisture from the soil placed in them. Collect good pieces of pottery suitable for those plants which do well in them. These are legion, if plenty of pebbles and charcoal are placed in the bottom of the pots. There are so many quaint and beautiful pieces, which, when planted properly will give just the right decorative note to the room. Tin cans, which seem to have a special affinity for most plants, may mask their former utility under a coat of bright lacquer. A good plan is to lacquer cans which contain the same kinds of plants the same color, thinking ahead as to what the bloom may be. Green or white are good in combination with either the begonias or gernaiums, especially those with variegated foliage. Yellow or orange for cactii and certain shades of blue for succulents. Watch your chance the next time gravelling or cementing is being done and lay in a supply of pebbles of different sizes and some fine sand. This will save hours of searching later on. Charcoal may be obtained Summer or Fall by bonfires. Soil will next take the attention. The time to do this is NOW, not waiting until the rains make it impracticable or snow-fall, impossible. Get good garden soil, maybe a little clayey for gernaiums, some fine dust for starting seed some Winter day, and if you have a hot-bed, this soil, well worked over, will be just the thing for the begonias and gloxinias, if it is mixed with a little sand. Some soot from stove-

NOTA BENE: The Hollywood Branch will be host to the Annual Convention of the American Begonia Society this year. **THE DATE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED** by the President, Mrs. W. C. Drummond, both at the monthly meeting of the Board of the A. B. S. and at the May meeting of the Branch itself as: Saturday, September 16th, 1944. **PLEASE MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR.** Get busy now grooming your plants for the Begonia Show on the same day. The date was chosen very particularly so that most of the tubercus begonias would still be in their glory and the gardens which will be open to the Conventionites will be in good color. All types of begonias will be shown. Don't tell us after **THE DAY**, "I have better Begonias at home."

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pipes at cleaning time should also be saved. This mixed with soil or put into the water used on plants brings out their colors more strongly.

Now is the time to root favorite plants, among them semperflorens begonias. Use whatever method is favorable to you. With me it is simply putting the cutting in a glass of soft water and leaving it until it roots, which sometimes takes time on the part of the cutting and patience on the part of the grower.

As to lifting and bringing in plants, do this on a cloudy cool day as the fibrous begonias have their roots on the surface of the soil. Take up sufficient soil so that the roots are not cut off. Set the newly transplanted plants in a cool, moist, shaded basement. A dirt cellar is fine for this, for a few days, until the shock of transplanting is over, then introduce them gradually into the living rooms where they will Winter, remembering to duplicate their former outside conditions where they did best, as nearly as possible. Do not expose them to strong sunlight, too much draft or too arid conditions when first bringing them into the house.

August is the month to become very plant conscious if we wish to have lovely blossoming windows when snow flies outside.

BEGONIA PALOMAR

By ALICE M. CLARK,
San Diego, Calif.

IT is nice to be back on home grounds again, writing about another San Diego hybrid. This time it is *Begonia Palomar*, the fine work of Constance Bower whose *Begonias Druryi*, *Rufida* and *Pink Neely Gaddis* have already been sketched and described. Our August selectee is quite different from any of the foregoing, being a procumbent type.

According to Miss Bower's notes, *Palomar* is a cross of *Incana* and *Ricinifolia*, made in 1937. At that time *B. incana*, a Mexican species brot to Kew in 1838, was known on this coast as *Peltata*. Mrs. Krauss says that *Peltata* was a species from Java that has been lost. A crossing of such widely different parents is most interesting and resulted in four named seedlings.

One of these, called *B. Romola*, is more like its *Incana* parent. It has thick leaves, large and peltate (shield-shape), and downy underneath. The flowers are extra large and pure white. Mrs. Krauss thinks it should be better known.

B. Pala, named for a semi-precious gem mountain in this vicinity, has thicker leaves than *Palomar*, is semi-peltate and has pale pink flowers. A third seedling, called *Red-veined Peltata*, has the upright growth of its namesake and the thick fuzzy leaves but has red veins and a conspicuous red center spot.

Palomar, one of our loveliest local mountains, now famous for a large observatory there, was the source for the title of the *Begonia* of our sketch. It really favors its *Ricinifolia* parent most, having a thick prostrate rhizome from which the leaves and flowers spring direct. The leaf comes out of a pointed, pale-green sheath which dries and curls back to cover the rhizome. When the stem is old enough to break off it leaves a kidney-shaped scar. The plant of my sketch was chosen without foreground leaves to show the growth habit instead of the handsome well-rounded clump it usually makes.

The leaf stems are green with light red and white dashes, brown fuzz and a tiny collar of red-rooted white hairs underneath where it joins the leaf, more like *heracleifolia*, the antecedent of *Ricinifolia*. The foliage itself is cut in points, somewhat like its hairy parent, especially when young, but it is not ruffled and pleated because its texture is so much thicker that all the creases are ironed

out flat except for a few puckers in the center. The new leaves, like one just coming up from the rhizome and another higher in the center of the drawing, have a silky, white-matted surface, edged in brown. This light effect gradually turns into a very faint brownish felting over the beautiful satin-green of the top surface as well as the dull gray-green below. The veins are a light-green tracing above with a patch of fuzz in the star center, and raised in heavy ribs underneath. Each leaf is cut to the center at one part and has a definite etching of tiny red points all around the margin. When in bloom, as depicted, the leaves are small but in summer they reach a good ten inches across.

The flower stalks of *Palomar* vary in height from twelve to eighteen inches. My plant has waited overlong to be sketched so the seed pods are more numerous than normal but each of the three wings of the ovary, as well as the two petals, is a delicate soft pink so it keeps its color longer than those that turn brown as they grow older. The inflorescence is more like *heracleifolia* and quite different from *incana*, which is white and woolly. The flowers are much larger and not as graceful as the tall, much-branched clusters of *Ricinifolia*. The peduncle is a smooth green at the base which grows gradually redder as it breaks into each new ramification of flowers. There is a pale green tint on the ovary and on the bracts that envelop the buds. These latter fall away, save for one tiny bractlet that makes a mere gesture of protecting the ovary. The male blooms are short-lived but have a lovely golden center while the yellow pistils of the female flower are arranged like three velvety sets of young deer horns.

Except for stiffer, larger leaves without any red tint and flowers of pale, instead of bright pink, *Palomar* reminds me more of *Heracleicotyle* (Mrs. Townsend) than any other star type. It grows better for me, having the strength of *verschafelti*. The firm, interesting leaves resemble those of the grape. It is a fine addition to any permanent border, both in Spring when it is definitely "in the pink" and in Summer when it outshines the shamrock in the "wearing 'o the green."

It is too bad that I do not have
(See page 380)



BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 375)

New England Branch: The N. E. Branch of the ABS will hold its annual meeting at the home of Mrs. Martin M. Post and her son, Mr. Philip Malcolm Post, 17 Beaconsfield Road, Worcester, Mass., on August 20th. Worcester is easily reached by train or bus and it is hoped that all the N. E. members will attend. Any N. E. begonia lovers who are interested to become members of the ABS are also invited to attend.

Members will reach Worcester at noon, bringing a picnic lunch. Punch will be served by the Posts. Each member is requested to bring one plant, for exhibition or to be named, or a box of labelled cuttings, to be sold for the benefit of the treasury.

The business meeting will be held after lunch, for the election of officers and other business. Any one desiring further information about the meeting may write the branch secretary, Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

San Francisco Branch: The July meeting was most interesting. Mrs. Wm. J. Roth displayed some lovely begonia arrangements and described how easily begonias can be combined with other foliage to make attractive displays. Mrs. Martha Werle of The Bungalow Nursery demonstrated, step by step, how to make lovely begonia corsages. She also donated many plants for the usual sale which was very successful.

Members will be pleased to hear that we have secured Mr. Oliver Kehrlein, Garden Editor of the San Francisco Examiner, as the manager of the forthcoming flower show.

Mr. Norval Gillespie, Pacific Coast Director of the National Victory Garden Institute, Mr. Steve Vistica, head gardener of the Kashland Estate at Hillsborough, and Miss Sydney Stein, Director of the Golden Gate Conservatory, will be the judges.

Miss Stein will be the speaker for the meeting of August 2nd, 1944.

Glendale Branch: The June meeting was indeed a fine one. Mr. Ross told of several ways of starting Rex leaves: by cuts or wedges, the whole leaf without stem is planted in cup shape to keep water from standing on the leaf, or to remove stem from base of leaf and place the leaf on sand or leaf mold then place a pot on part of the leaf so that where

the pot bruises the leaf there will appear small plants.

Mrs. McRae then spoke on the Grooming of Plants for Show. She continued with suggestion on the planting of a garden with the object of creating pictures. She also spoke instructively on repotting plants that are pot-bound. Soak the pot with plant and then remove all soil from the ball and repot in a larger pot with a good soil mixture. Cuttings were passed for identification.

Mrs. Ann Marek was the third speaker, her subject being "How and What to Plant in Baskets." Naturally that included soil mixtures. She said that the most important thing for success in planting hanging baskets is to be sure to use enough moss around the side of the basket as a soil-holding lining. The soil must be well packed in order that the moisture may be held longer. Many shade plants may be grown successfully in baskets. Mrs. Marek even grows sweet peas in baskets in her own garden, they twine about the wire from which they hang and look very graceful. Many shade plants may be grown in basket with advantage.

Many questions were asked and answered by each speaker and when the meeting adjourned, everyone enjoyed the refreshments.

The National Begonia Society Officers are invited to attend the August meeting. (See next page)

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BEGONIA PALOMAR

(Continued from page 378)

Suncana, the hybrid of incana and Sanderbruchi, made by Mrs. Tillman of Maryland, to compare with Palomar. Mrs. Krauss says the southern seedling looks more like incana, being somewhat rounder, more deeply lobed and more densely covered with tomentum than Palomar. I wonder which is the older cross? With such different forebears it is certainly fascinating to observe the resulting progeny. I am sure that those of you who are interested in the star family will take the same pleasure in adding Palomar to your garden as I have in sketching it for our August portfolio.

Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch: This Branch also reports an excellent meeting in June, it was held at the home of Selina Jones, Willow Grove Penna., with Margaret Gruenbaum as Program Chairman. She selected as her topic, the S. P. Miller collection which was described over the Radio January 28th, 1944. While none of the members own all of the plants mentioned, in the broadcast, each of them have some of them and some of them are grown with unusual success. Among them are some beautiful *Rexes*, *imperialis*, and a stunning *philomaniaca*.

In addition to this each member brought THE BEST LEAF FROM HER PLANT OF *B. Thurstoni* for comparison as to size, color and vigor and general discussion as to cultivation. Each month a different variety will be chosen through the year. This, of course, is in addition to the regular program.

The discussion next month will be about *B. Schmidtiana*.

Riverside Branch: The members of this Branch DID get together one week after the "Fourth" to enjoy a "covered dish dinner in the garden of the T. E. Tophams and the attendance of twenty members with ten guests was productive of four new members. The speaker who did not come missed a treat, for—it was good eatin'. However, just to show they are "good guys," they will repeat the performance in the beautiful Riverside Fairmount Park on August 1st, and they dare the speakers to talk, after a good feed.

Two of the guests spoke interestingly. Waldo Small told of the new chemical preparations for noxious weed control. Howard Starke spoke on the growing of *Cymbediums*.

East Bay Branch: News of the June meeting arrived too late to be included in last month's *Begonian*.

Meetings have been changed to the Third Sunday of the month in order not to conflict with the meetings of the American Fuchsia Society, and the time is 2:30 now instead of 3 p.m.

Mr. Boyd brought a beautiful frilled *Camellia* type tuberous-rooted *begonia* in a pure white, one he raised from seed this season. This was raffled off at \$5.35.

The sum of \$155.10 has been received from the sale of tuberous *begonia* plants.

The owner of a 35mm camera has offered its use for the duration of the while taking 18 current pictures in color of specimen plants in the glasshouse, through the day of June meeting.

The August meeting will be held at the home of M. L. Boyd, 1550 Sonoma, Berkeley, Calif.

Bellflower Branch: Due to a typographical error it was not clear that there was no regular meeting in July but instead everyone was to attend the joint visitation and picnic with the parent Branch on July 23rd, no news of this meeting is yet at hand. The next regular meeting will be held on August 1st, at the home of Mrs. Esther McElhinney, 534 Darnell Street, Bellflower, Calif.

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San Gabriel Valley Branch: The August meeting of the San Gabriel Valley Branch will be held at 4 p.m. August 27, 1944, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Weaver, 1349 East Sierra Madre, Glendora, California. Ferd P. Neels, President of the American Begonia Society in 1942, will talk on preparing plants for Begonia Shows. Mr. Neels is well qualified to discuss this subject as he has won as many if not more ribbons than any other individual in the National Begonia Shows.

This talk should be of interest to not only those planning to exhibit at the Sixth National Begonia Show to be held in Hollywood on September 16th, but also to those who want their plants to present their best appearance in their lath house, glass house or shade garden.

Bring a picnic supper and come prepared to enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

Ventura Branch: August 1st will be a special meeting in honor of the National Board of Directors of the ABS. The President of the Branch, Mrs. Walter Knecht, has invited them to a five o'clock buffet supper at her home previous to the meeting. Mr. Harold Hart will be the speaker for the August meeting. He was reported to be due to speak at the July meeting, but that was an error. There will be a special sale, proceeds of which will be turned over to Hollywood for the Annual Convention expenses. Visitors will be welcome and particularly to see the gardens open to visitation through the afternoon. Some beautiful sights are promised.

Hollywood Branch: The July meeting was a picnic in the grounds of the Board of Education Garden and Home Center, at 950 No. Kings Road, Hollywood, Calif. with Mr. Raymond T. Wilson as host, aided by a splendid Committee. There were special guests galore to enjoy the extraordinary entertainment and listen to Mr. Joseph R. Sherer's comments on Balinese life. His pictures were very interesting indeed. "Agriculture and Home Life of Bali" gave everyone present another outlook on life and a deep respect for the agriculture of those patient terrace gardeners. The meeting was made especially festive also by the presence of nearly all of the Officers and some past officers of the ABS. One of the highlights of the evening was the viewing of the Tipuana tipu tree, still in bloom with golden blossoms thickly carpeting the grass under the majestic height and magnificent spread of this very rare and beautiful specimen.



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North Long Beach Branch: The July meeting was expected to be a most interesting meeting as the National President, Mr. Clarence Hall, of Ventura, was to be the guest speaker. Mr. H. P. Dykeman, founder of the American Begonia Society, was to act as Master of Ceremonies. There is to be a large plant sale, the benefits to be donated to the Hollywood Branch for the coming National Convention. A great deal has been said about other branches and their membership drives. We also are having one with the captains of each team, Mrs. Mabel Anderson and Mrs. Frances Cairn, adding up a new membership nearing the fifty mark. The first half of the year ends in July with the losing team being host to the winners at a pot luck dinner which is to be held at our birthday party in August.

Inglewood Branch: A full house welcomed the Officers of the Board of the ABS who could come with other visitors from several Branches, for the July meeting. Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Schirmer brought a fine array of plants as promised, for the plant sale which, together with others from other members induced a keen competition for the tickets in order to get some. Mr. Harold Hart spoke most interestingly about the A. D. Robinson Memorial. Maria Wilkes discussed "Unusual Shade Plants" and the Necessity for Shade Gardens in Southern California. She emphasized the particular need for "live" shade such as that given by vines and trees so that the air surrounding the home be conditioned as far as possible toward more woody temperature than is achieved by a plain lathhouse. The artificial structure is still most necessary in the majority of cases, but if made to look natural and attractive the home garden would gain in charm and draw the family to live in it longer. A point she likes to dwell upon is that of soil preparation. The soil must be made physically "right" for the plants to be able to make a good root system and go in search of food. Drainage and fertility are two of the most important things with that. She strongly recommended the fine Redwood Bark for mixing into the soil and the coarse fibre of the same for lining hanging baskets as well as for mulches in sun or shade for many good reasons that she has proven in the nearly two years of constant work with this material. Mrs. Wilkes suggested the use of many blue flowering plants in the shade as well as a lot of

Nomenclature And the Rule

By MRS. HELEN K. KRAUSS,
Nomenclature Chairman,
Wynnewood, Pa.

(Excerpts from letter to a Begoniaite keen on correct nomenclature, who is making a very fine card index of Begonia names.)

• Literature on the subject of Plant Names of Begonias is stupendous. The numerous Garden, Botanical and Horticultural magazines and chronicles in the various languages, too, are sources of information, besides the many books. Collating all of this material requires long, arduous labor. You can now understand that a few isolated volumes cannot give you an adequate picture.

Two valuable books used by all scientific men are "Index Kewensis and Supplements" and "Prodromus" by A. deCandolle, 1854. The first guides one to sources of information and the latter gives descriptions of Begonias known at that time.

Your reasons for preferring a plant name: (a) First impression is human, as we all dislike to change our preconceived ideas; (b) You like the name—that is all right but apply it to the proper plant. For example—I like a friend whose name is Florence and when I first met her my impression was that her name was Dorothy. Did she change her name to accommodate my first impression or my particular liking for the wrong name? The answer is obvious.

Preconceived ideas, personal preferences and habits of long standing are arbitrary reasons and have no place in any scientific field. In the final analysis **the botanical rule is:** if the correct name is not known, hunt for the name which was first given to the new plant and that name applies—all others are synonyms.

white. Both blue and white lend distance and add coolness to the depths of a shade garden and enhance the beauty of the other flowers, making their colors seem brighter.

The next meeting will be dominated by a ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION followed by a donation plant sale in favor of the Annual Convention in Hollywood. Of course there will be refreshments. Please bring your cup and spoon.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**

(Condensed Minutes of the Board Meeting held in the Board Room of the Los Angeles Retail Merchants' Credit Association, 417 So. Hill St., Los Angeles, Monday, June 12, 1944):

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER by President Hall at 7:45 p.m.

Those PRESENT: Mr. A. E. Nelson, Mr. J. Baily, Mr. H. P. Dean, Mr. H. Hart, Mr. M. Hawkins, Mr. R. Smith, Mr. G. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. H. Harker, Dr. and Mrs. Drummond, Mesdames Wilkes, Hartwell, and Ehret.

The president introduced and welcomed the following GUESTS: Miss H. Ehret, Mr. H. P. Dean, and Mr. R. Smith.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 8 read and approved.

Reports of BUSINESS MANAGER AND EDITOR, TREASURER, AND MEMBERSHIP FEES CHAIRMEN were read and motion to accept each report as read, carried.

Mr. M. Hawkins, reporting for the SPEAKERS BUREAU announced that mimeographed lists of available speakers had been forwarded to each branch, and that additional names would be added as soon as additional speakers were secured.

Reporting for MEMBERSHIP, Mrs. Harker announced that the National Membership shows an INCREASE of about 300 above that at this time last year.

Mrs. Poole, Chairman of the A. D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL COMMITTEE, was reported as ill and confined to a hospital. The Secretary was instructed to write to her and convey the sympathy of the Board. Mrs. McRae was appointed to deliver a potted plant to her as further expression of the Board's sympathy.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Poole requesting she be relieved of duties pertaining to the A. D. Robinson Memorial. Request accepted with regrets.

The Chairman of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE of 1945 officers announced that a complete report would be ready for the next regular meeting.

Representative Directors present: Mr. Fasmer, Inglewood; Mr. Dean, Pasadena; Mrs. McRae, Glendale; Mr. M. Hawkins, Hollywood; Mr. H. Harker, Parent Branch; and Mr. George Lawrence, San Gabriel. All reported on increased attendance and excellent speakers at each meeting.

Mr. George Lawrence appointed as CHAIRMAN OF THE FLOWER SHOW RULES AND POINTS COMMITTEE, relieving Mrs. Poole of that duty.

MR. H. HART APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE A. D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL. He announced plans to call a meeting of branch representatives as soon as possible and promised a full report at the next meeting.

Messrs. Nelson and Hawkins reported that they had arranged for a NEW MEETING PLACE for the Board Meetings, the next meeting to be held at the Edwards and Wilder Building, 609 So. Grand, Los Angeles, at 7:30 p.m., July 10.

Moved that a LETTER OF APPRECIATION be sent to the General Manager of the Retail Credit Association for the use of their Board room in the past. Carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED to next regular meeting on Monday, July 10.

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Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

By JOHN S. VOSBURG,
Hollywood, Calif.

• On a recent visit to the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California, I had a very enjoyable visit with Dr. Wm. Hertrich. Among other things, he showed a great deal of enthusiasm over a lovely sedum that is excellent hanging basket material preferring shade. It is a sedum from Mexico with the attractive grey-green foliage so nicely overlapped as to give the impression of a stem about one inch in diameter the ends of which bear whorls of flowers of a dainty reddish cast. The long tail-like hanging stems are numerous and they hang very gracefully hugging the sides of the hanging pot as if with their own weight. Plants of it have hung at the entrance of the gallery over long periods, always looking well and attracting much attention.

Coming, as it does, from Mexico, it seems to adapt itself very readily to the heat of Summer and the coolness of the Winter. It needs a short rest period to recover from its flowering in abundance. The plants at the Huntington Gardens just passed their prime a few weeks ago.

This plant needs but little attention and because of its attractiveness it catches and holds the attention of everyone who sees it. If you want something unique in a hanging basket plant, try *Sedum wallendorfanum*.

(Editor's note: The next thing is to find a source of *Sedum wallendorfanum*.)



Sedum wallendorfanum

It certainly is very different and desirable. WHO HAS IT? Please advise Mrs. Russel T. Baily, Questions and Answers Ch. See address front page.)

• *September 16th, a "Must" Date for You and the Family. The Begonia Show, Plummer Park, Hollywood. The Public is Welcome.*

• **PLUMMER PARK, HOLLYWOOD . . .**
IDEAL for the Convention September 16th.

• *There Will Be Seedlings to Be Named After Moving Picture Stars at the Convention, Plummer Park, September 16th.*

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

By Helen R. Bailey, San Diego, Calif.

Q. At present we have a selection of camellias, begonias, epiphyllums, azaleas, calla lilies and ferns but would like to enlarge our selection of shade plants and would like a list of any you may advise as appropriate for a lath house.

(From Mrs. P. T., Arcadia, Calif.)

A. There are so many shade loving plants suitable for lath house culture that you will have no trouble in obtaining a variety. Every issue of the Begonian speaks of some of them. For instance, there are Mr. Vosburg's "Plantly Speaking—In the Shade" which are in every copy of the magazine. Page 23 of the February, 1941, Begonian has a very good list. An abbreviated list of those in common use here in San Diego includes, in addition to those you mention, Coleus, Saintpaulias, the various philodendrons (including monstera deliciosa), the marantas, ruellia, strobilanthes dyerianus, artillery plant, clivia, cymbidiums, amaranthus, cineraria, achimenes, gloxinia, streptocarpus, ivy, peperomia, sansevieria, and variegated grasses.

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105 N. Catlin St., Edgerton

Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

The August 14th (Second Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Room 901, Edwards & Wildey Building, 609 So. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, at 7:45 p.m.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, August 1st, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.
Speaker: Harold Hart

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, August 1st, 7:30 p.m.
Picnic at Fairmount Park
Mrs. Jessie A. Topham, Secy.-Treas.,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, August 1st, 8:00 p.m.
At Home of:
Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, August 2nd, 7:45 p.m.
Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church,
% 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,
2183 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Speaker: Miss Sydney Stein

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, August 3rd
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, August 3rd
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, August 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, August 9th, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas.,
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, August 10th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618 1/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
Speaker: Maria Wilkes

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, August 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.
Speaker: Gladys Bullard
Subject: Fibrous Begonias

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, August 11th, 8:00 p.m.
Annual Dinner, at the Home of:
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Smith,
250 E. Home St., Long Beach 5, Calif.
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, August 14th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklase, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, August 17th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, August 20th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Mr. M. L. Boyd,
1550 Sonoma, Berkeley, Calif.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, August 21st
Tillie Genter, Secy.-Treas.,
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, August 22nd
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.
Roundtable: Begonia Schmidtiana

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, August 22nd, 8:00 p.m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, August 25th, 10:30 a.m.
Hall Point Loma Community Church,
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.,
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, August 27th, 4:00 p.m.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Weaver,
1349 E. Sierra Madre, Glendora, Calif.
Mrs. Velma C. Dunn, Secretary
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.
Speaker: Ferd P. Neels
Subject: "Preparing Plants for Flower Shows"

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, August 28th
Hard of Hearing Hall,
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Irregular Meetings
Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy.,
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

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Box 12, Nipomo, Calif.

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